



Fw: CBS coming to town

James Woolford to: Carol Campbell, Helen Dawson, Barnes
Johnson, Elizabeth Southerland

09/20/2010 09:18 AM

James Woolford, Director
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
Office: 703-603-8960
Fax: 703-603-9146

woolford.james@epa.gov

----- Forwarded by James Woolford/DC/USEPA/US on 09/20/2010 11:17 AM -----

From: FilmWest <filmwest@gmail.com>
To: gordon sullivan <gordsull@yahoo.com>, Tony Berget <tberget@libby.org>, Brad Black <brad@libbyasbestos.org>, DC Orr <excav8orr@hotmail.com>, Bill Patten <bpatt@sjlh.com>, Phillip Perquiaga <perquiaga@eaglesvoice.com>
Cc: Dan Busby <dtbusby@frontiernet.net>, Mike Cirian/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Julie DalSoglio/MO/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Duane <klcb@frontiernet.net>, Sean Earle/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Hal Harper <hharper@mt.gov>, Victor Ketellapper/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Bill Murray/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Catharine Ransom <catharine_ransom@baucus.senate.gov>, aastanislaus@EPA, Leroy Tham <montmac@frontiernet.net>, Terry Trent <ttrent1@juno.com>, Sloan Virginia <Virginia_Sloan@tester.senate.gov>, James Woolford/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 09/19/2010 03:48 AM
Subject: Re: CBS coming to town

CBS seems to now understand the issue.

We need to focus on the local newspaper- The Western News:

The article below apparently has a few irresponsible misrepresentations and wild statements by Mr. Martin, ie :

1) "..... We've made huge progress in reducing ambient concentrations."

Until a Risk Assessment has been completed, it is nonsense to tout ambient air data.

Nobody even knows if the air sampling is accurate, or if the methods used work for Libby Amphibole/Tremolite.

2) Economic Development? Really? We're now proclaiming vermiculite is job security?

See the attached storage site.

LA is only deadly when stirred. They have now awakened the sleeping monster with no real plan. No capping, no containment, no cover.

Simple rain, wind or fire can take it all right back. It has been moving via Rainy Creek to Kootenai River and ultimately the Pacific Ocean.

3) Martin said.... "I think that the way we move forward in dealing with the work that remains to be done is we need to make sure that it's done consistently with the law...."

Doesn't the EPA regulate and FINE other people for this type of activity ? Who issues fines and imposes penalties on them?

3) Stinger Welding...do the background check.

4) ".....but also respecting the concerns of the folks here and trying to help figure out what the economic future might be and so on."

Huh? Respecting the concerns of the folks?

There is no economic future until the town is safe.

There is no way to tell anyone it is safe without a Risk Assessment.

There are published letters from doctors and scientists in 1988 telling everyone Libby needed a Risk Assessment. \$ 350 million and no Risk Assessment, but the head of Region 8 is talking about CREATING JOBS from hazardous material?

Can anyone explain that?

5) Dr. Black is quoted as saying "We have to have some understanding here about risk,"

Shouldn't that be a major concern of Region 8 Administrator Jim Martin, instead of creating jobs out of the risk?

6) Martin toured the area after arriving on Wednesday of last week "to get a better sense of the situation." Stops included the former W.R. Grace & Co., vermiculite mine, Riverfront Park, the industrial district area and a number of homes that have gone through the cleanup process.

What was the outcome of trying to “....get a better sense of the situation.”?
Is there a plan in place to begin a Risk Assessment this year? This month? How soon can it begin?

7) “What W.R. Grace left in its wake was a huge problem, a massive problem,” Martin said.

Has anyone explained to Mr. Martin how the settlement with Grace works?

WR Grace is gone, Jim. The Executives have become ill or died from exposure. It’s time to protect the community and way past time to come up with a plan.

Does Region 8 have a plan? Will they take advice from smart people who can help them yet?

There are doctors and scientists trying to create solutions, a plan. There are local people who have offered viable solutions for specific issues.

Bottom line, it’s time for Region 8 to stop talking and get to work on a real plan that makes sense, and involve knowledgeable experts in multiple fields who can advise and oversee the process. Region 8 is missing checks and balances, apparently.

Fire the contractor, and put the money toward people with a plan.

8) “What I saw today is that a lot of progress has been made.”

How would he know that? He’s never been to Libby. What did he see that showed progress?

Actually, those of us who have been to Libby are absolutely shocked by the digress.

Bottom Line, They say “talk is cheap”, but this talk has come at a premium, and lives have been forever changed by the omission of a Risk Assessment in Libby.

EPA’s new Region 8 chief visits Libby

esday, September 15, 2010 12:18 am
By Brad Fuqua, The Western News |

Beyond the ongoing cleanup efforts in the aftermath of asbestos exposure, the Environmental Protection Agency's new regional chief acknowledged Thursday that Libby needs to also rebuild its economy.

Limits exist, of course, on exactly how the EPA can help in terms of the business community and job creation. But with the state's highest unemployment rate at 14.8 percent in Lincoln County, local leaders stressed the need to get over the economic hump. James Martin, who was selected by President Obama in April to serve as EPA's Region 8 administrator, said during a roundtable discussion with various local and regional leaders that his agency would "do our best to be partners ... we'll do our best as fast as we can." The economic theme loomed large during the meeting.

"I think that message came through loud and clear; I heard it," Martin said. "We're obviously not an economic development agency, we're an environmental agency but we'll do what we can."

Mike Cirian, local EPA field leader, said the situation with bridge parts manufacturer Stinger Welding serves as an example on how the federal agency can help.

"Stinger went to the front of the line," Cirian said. "Those are the types of things that we can do to think outside the box."

Martin toured the area after arriving on Wednesday of last week "to get a better sense of the situation." Stops included the former W.R. Grace & Co., vermiculite mine, Riverfront Park, the industrial district area and a number of homes that have gone through the cleanup process.

"What W.R. Grace left in its wake was a huge problem, a massive problem," Martin said. "What I saw today is that a lot of progress has been made. We've made huge progress in reducing ambient concentrations. I think perhaps it's more difficult to see if you're living here and worried about the economy but it's important for all of us to remember that we have made very significant progress and we're committed to working with the community and getting the job done."

Various issues were raised but economic challenges served as the theme of the day.

"From this meeting what I took away was feeling a sense of frustration with the challenge of restoring an economic base, given all that's happened here but also uncertainty about what the future holds," Martin said. "I think that the way we move forward in dealing with the work that remains to be done is we need to make sure that it's done consistently with the law but also respecting the concerns of the folks here and trying to help figure out what the economic future might be and so on."

Efforts to improve communication was also discussed.

"We have to have some understanding here about risk," said Dr. Brad Black of the Center for Asbestos Related Disease. "That's what we'd like to have - that type of communication."

"If there are big decisions coming down the road, I'll come out and talk to you," Martin said in response.

Martin's appointment by the president did not require Senate confirmation. He formerly served as executive director of Colorado's Department of Natural Resources and chief of

the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Martin's past also includes working for 10 years as senior attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund in Boulder, Colo., and Oakland, Calif.

EPA's Denver-based Region 8 covers Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and 27 tribal nations.

On 8/13/10 11:44 AM, "gordon sullivan" <gordsull@yahoo.com> wrote:

WOW!!! Get your best duds out, scrap the grit from your boots and paste on your best smile, Victor Ketellapper and EPA are bringing CBS News to town for another "HALF" story on Libby. The agenda will be the same, the people will be the same, and the STORY will be the same but this time the party is on the EPA. I love this part of the mix as quoted in this morning's Western News by Montana's own C LaCours, *"The CBS visit offers a really good opportunity for this kind of publicity...As community leaders, I would suggest you get with (EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Libby Faulk) and see **what names EPA can provide to CBS and you guys formulate the message that you want to send out.**"* SOUNDS A LITTLE LIKE A CORPORATE PR PLAN TO ME. In any regard, the message should represent the entire community, based on scientific fact and reflect the absolute truth. We are after all, impacting people's lives you know!!! EPA region eight and Montana DEQ are beginning to sound like BP when they announced their oil suddenly vanished from the Gulf.
Gordon Sullivan



Landscape-2.pdf